(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Per capita income
1992-93	0.33
1993-94	0.36
1994-95	0.43

(c) It has been reported by Super Bazar that during the current year (1995-96) the per capita income is estimated to be around Rs. 0.53 lakh.

Frauds and Scams in State Trading Corporation

1113. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that investigations into the frauds and scams reported in State Trading Corporation have been investigated by CBI against IAS and non-IAS officers;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) if not, by what time these are likely to be concluded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) In some cases the investigation has been completed by CBI and are at the stage of trial in different Courts. Some cases have been closed by CBI after investigation. In a few cases, CBI is conducting its investigations.

Harassment of Scientists in Rubber Board

1114. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the administration of Rubber Board has been putting all sorts of impediments in the work of a scientist who has developed a brand new tapping method capable of revolutionising the field of rubber production at no additional cost to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Smt. L. Thanakamma of RRII had filed an appeal before the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala alleging interference in her work which has not been upheld by the Hon'ble High Court. Smt. Thanakamma had carried out some tapping experiments which were recently evaluated by the Scientific Advisory Committee of RRII and the results were found to be inadequate for eaching any conclusion.

Increasing Operational Cost of FCI

1115. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pelased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the operating cost of FCI is on the high side and as a result a large part of food subsidy does not go either to the producers or to the consumers but towards the management of FCI; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken during the last two years to minimise the said expenditure on management and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) FCI procures foodgrains mostly under price support operations whereby the producers stand to gain by payment of assured minimum prices. The economic cost of wheat and rice during 1995-96(RE) is as under:—

Fig. Rs./Qtl.

Element of cost	Wheat	Rice
Pooled cost of grains	351.10	584.60
Procurement incidentals (including mandi charges Arthias Commission cost of gunnies, handling transport at mandi)	84.75	52.98